

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR IMPROVING MESSAGE  
AVAILABILITY IN A SUBSYSTEM WHICH SUPPORTS  
SHARED MESSAGE QUEUES**

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**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

10 The invention relates to communicating message data  
between application programs, the message data relating to  
units of work performed by the application programs. A  
plurality of message queuing subsystems interface to the  
application programs and are coupled together through a  
coupling facility. The message data is communicated in  
shared queues between the message queuing subsystems by  
15 means of data structures contained in the coupling  
facility. The data structures include an administrative  
structure listing unit of work descriptors describing  
operations performed by the queuing subsystems on a shared  
queue. A connection failure between a queuing subsystem and  
20 the shared queue is notified to the remaining queuing  
subsystems connected to the shared queue. The remaining  
queuing subsystems interrogate the listed work descriptors  
so as to identify and to share between them the units of  
work active in the failed connection, and each of the  
25 remaining subsystems recovers its share of the units of  
work active in the failed connection.